

# Environmental Report

## May 2021

### Environmental Manager Teresa Sidwell

**Environmental Division Services and Programs** – In addition to environmental law enforcement, our division is also tasked with providing the following to our community.

- Cleanup of illegal roadside dumps
- Installation of “No Dumping/No Littering” signs
- Installation of surveillance cameras
- Extra patrols in areas of frequent dumping
- The Adopt a Road litter cleanup program
- The Environmental Education program for children and adults
- The Rain Garden stormwater outdoor classroom
- Waste Not - Want Not recycling program for county employee
- Solid Waste Drop Off sites (provided by the Solid Waste District, the County and the Cities of Benton County)

**Roadside Cleanups in May** –We cleaned up roadside dumps at four locations in Centerton, Rogers, and Gravette. Our CDL licensed Officer removed 3 mattresses, a big TV, carpeting using the grapple truck. Other staff removed a considerable amount of litter along the roads as well.



**Special Waste Drop-off Program** – A collaborative effort between Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District to provide recycling and safe disposal of large bulky household items including furniture, electronics, tires, scrap metal, appliances, and a variety of household hazardous waste including chemicals, batteries and fluorescent bulbs. Limited amounts of items are taken free of charge or for a low cost from local household residents.

#### WASTE COLLECTED AT SPECIAL WASTE DROP-OFF

<b>CENTERTON</b>	<b># LOADS</b>	<b># NON-REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># ELECTRONICS</b>	<b># METAL</b>	<b># FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED</b>	<b># HHW</b>	<b># Tires</b>
January	669	52	52	211	383	492	67	325
February	367	34	14	131	290	315	33	57
March	926	62	58	304	746	759	118	394
April	855	43	43	226	739	710	123	
May	760	19	39	201	816	638	124	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>2,974</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>776</b>

  

<b>ROGERS</b>	<b># LOADS</b>	<b># NON-REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># ELECTRONICS</b>	<b># METAL</b>	<b># FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED</b>	<b># HHW</b>	<b># Tires</b>
January	425	20	11	103	645	352	94	572
February	210	1	11	56	262	214	32	130
March	343	11	9	67	296	363	55	285
April	328	11	15	110	441	336	54	
May	550	27	47	156	448	461	103	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>987</b>

  

<b>SILAM SPRINGS</b>	<b># LOADS</b>	<b># NON-REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># REFRIGERATED</b>	<b># ELECTRONICS</b>	<b># METAL</b>	<b># FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED</b>	<b># HHW</b>	<b># Tires</b>
January	53	0	9	42	51	16	18	72
February	50	2	0	48	25	27	17	0
March	61	4	3	42	47	24	15	
April	61	0	1	36	33	27	24	
May	38	0	7	25	8	18	14	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>

#### DUMPSTER COSTS TO COUNTY

	<b>HAULS</b>	<b>TONS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>HAULS</b>	<b>TONS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>HAULS</b>	<b>TONS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	ROGERS	ROGERS	ROGERS	SILAM	SILAM	SILAM	HAULS	TONS	COST
JAN	9	17.38	\$2,225.68	5	15.05	\$1,473.00	0	-	\$104.32	14	32.43	\$3,803.00
FEB	10	24.67	\$2,753.10	9	21.08	\$2,444.62	0	-	\$106.94	19	45.75	\$5,304.66
MAR	19	36.4	\$4,737.49	18	42.98	\$4,633.66	1	1.9	\$474.52	38	81.28	\$9,845.67
APR	23	44.92	\$5,777.24	15	29.65	\$3,840.56	1	1.92	\$474.52	39	76.49	\$10,092.32
MAY	15	34.79	\$4,113.20	12	20.62	\$3,009.44	0	-	\$106.94	27	55.41	\$7,597.16
YTD	76	158.16	\$19,606.71	59	129.38	\$15,401.28	2	3.82	\$1,267.24	137	291.36	\$36,642.81



**Environmental Enforcement** – In May we received 30 new reports of illegal waste disposal. We investigate citizen reports of environmental violations on properties located outside city limits and educate property owners about proper waste disposal, reserving citations as a last resort. Currently, we have 14 cases in the court system.

Sr. Officer Filbeck flew four drone missions which included assisting the Benton County Sheriff’s Office during the month of May. In addition, he made a primary camera installation, issued four citations, conducted four extra patrols and appeared in court on one case. While working an environmental case, Officer Spry and Sr. Officer Filbeck recovered two stolen motorcycles which were turned over to the Benton County Sheriff’s Office. Below are photos of a pasture that was being used to store wrecked vehicles outside the city of Gentry. Sr. Officer Filbeck was finally able to develop a suspect and the pasture was cleared of all vehicles except two which brought the property into compliance with the county ordinance.

**BEFORE:**



**AFTER:**



**Monte Ne Area** – This mobile home (pictured left) was discovered while removing a large dump of approximately 100 tires nearby. The ground around the home is covered with household waste but there is so much vegetation at this property that good photographs could not be taken. The deteriorating structure is not secured. The property owners will be required to remove the waste and secure the abandoned mobile home or be cited.





### **Imagine if Your Neighbors Property Looked Like This**

What an adorable home with a neatly kept yard (above left) outside the city of Lowell. Unfortunately, they live next to this abandoned property (above right) and the abandoned RV that is parked on the road (left) that suddenly appeared in 2020.

In July 2020 it was reported that there was trash, beds, no water, no electric, trash overflowing onto other people's property. Sr. Officer Filbeck worked with this property owner for several months because all their belongings were brought to this location after being evicted from another residence without notice.

Recently Sr. Officer Filbeck found out that the people residing here had left and never returned. All of their waste is sitting in the lot next to this property owner who keeps their home and yard looking good.

Sr. Officer Filbeck has sent a citation to this property owner to the last know address. We hope that our District Court Judge can resolve this issue.







**Lowell Area** – This property was discovered while our staff was cleaning up a roadside dump in 2020. I have been unsuccessful with locating the property owner until recently. The front porch and part of the front yard is covered with cat food cans (pictured left) and other household waste is scattered throughout the property. This month Sr. Officer Filbeck and I discovered that someone has broken into the home that was partially burned years ago.

**Staff Training** – Officer Spry took online training for Basic Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) and all staff took ACIC Level 3 Security Awareness. Officer Spry completed field training and was released to conduct investigations independently. We take training seriously and work diligently to achieve high standards for our law enforcement officers. Environmental Officers practiced at the gun range in May. Effective defense with a firearm requires a strong proficiency in order to reduce a threat as quickly as possible and with as little collateral damage as possible. It is essential to not only start by practicing simple motions but also to vary our training regimen in order to train as realistically as possible.



During the month of May, Officer Spry accompanied Senior Officer Filbeck on two drone flights and a primary camera installation. While assisting Senior Officer Filbeck on an environmental case, they recovered 2 stolen motorcycles which were turned over to the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Officer Spry completed field training and began work independently in May. The case pictured below was outside the city limits of Rogers. The offender had trash and general waste thrown out onto the property creating a nuisance for the neighbors. Officer Spry conducted a follow up investigation and discovered the property had been sold, cleaned up and under construction for a remodel.

**Before:**



**After:**



If you missed out on this event, there is always next year! Or you can do like I do when I am on my way into the office or just taking a walk. The litter in the photo on the left is from the parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue and SE 'B' Street . If you or a group that you belong to would like to adopt a park, road, or even a parking lot I can help you get started with gloves, litter grabbers, trash bags and safety vests. It is unfortunate that people are such litter bugs but it takes environmental heroes to keep Benton County beautiful!

**ENVIRONMENTAL CASE DATA** Refer to the charts for environmental cases received and actions initiated in May.

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	3
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	0
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	0
Dumped by others (electronics)	1
Dumped by others (furniture)	3
Dumped by others (general waste)	2
Dumped by others (household garbage)	1
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	1
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	1
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	2
Dumped by self (construction debris)	2
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	3
Dumped by self (general waste)	4
Dumped by self (household garbage)	2
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	1
Dumped by self (trees)	1
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	2
Camera	1
Extra Patrol	3
Littering	0
Sign installation	0
Stagnant Water	0

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	0
WARRANTS ISSUED	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	30
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	188

**What does the Environmental Division Investigate?**

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our Division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

